

our intellectual life, our moral life, our spiritual life, the vital energies of our physical being, all that enters into our personality. Thus we pattern after the Head Shepherd, and being partakers of his sufferings for others, we shall also be partakers of his glory.

WHAT IS PRAYER

B. F. COPPOCK

Prayer is the free utterance of the soul's wants to God the Father asking benefits in the name of our Saviour and interceding for the good of others, also faith is quickened by prayer and it may be said that prayer is an indication of the spiritual condition of the soul, it being to the soul what breath is to the body. Elias was a man subject to like passions, as we are, and he prayed earnestly that it might not rain, and it rained not on the earth for the space of three years and six months. James 5:17. The Apostle James, as we notice, adduces this instance of Elijah's success in prayer as an encouragement to us to persevere in prayer and to believe that we also shall not fail of being answered. If we only pray in faith, because the effectual fervent prayer of the righteous man availeth much, (James 5:16) and indeed who can recount all the wondrous instances in which the truth of this declaration has been realized thro prayer. Moses turned away the fierce wrath of the Almighty from Israel with outstretched arms. He smote the host of Amalek and Manah, by voice of his cry drew visible manifestations of the divine presence in human form. Judges 13:8. Thro prayer at Mizpeh the prophet Samuel smote the army of the Phillistines and caused the thunder of terror to roll over Israel's foes. I Sam. 7:9-12. Thro the same also Josiah, the prince, died in peace. II Kings 22:19, 20. Thro prayer, fifteen years were added to Hezekiah's life. The three men were also preserved in the burning, fiery furnace. By the praying of the brethren on the day of Pentecost, the heavens were opened, and at another time after they had prayed the place where they had assembled was shaken and all were filled with the Holy Ghost. Prayer burst the fetters of Peter and broke open the doors of his prison. It also rebuked the storms, healed the sick and brought the dead to life, and what shall I say more of the power, the wonders and the performance of prayer. The whole scriptures are full of them, and our churches also would be full of them were more prayer in our Israel and more of the incense on our public, family and private altar, but it sleeps among us, for what we call praying morning and evening, according to custom. The sleepy, dull and heartless repetitions of devotional language does not deserve the name of prayer. Keep these ceremonious compliments to yourselves. The Lord does not want such service. The confession of the broken and contrite heart, the cry of the humble, the expression of the real godly sorrow, the opening of our cares to our heavenly Father, these are the things which go to constitute prayer. Brethren and sisters, pray that the

spirit of grace and supplication may be poured out upon you. Ask what you will, it may be done for you. He that cannot lie, has promised it. Only ask in his name as the children of God thro faith in Jesus Christ, trusting in his promises and you will certainly succeed at last. Too often we omit to notice God's answer to our prayers, otherwise how often should we find to our glad astonishment that at the time of our supplication the commandment had gone forth to help us, therefore let the call to prayer be ever regarded by us as the invitation to an unspeakable privilege. Continue instant in prayer, prayer in the Spirit, in the Holy Ghost, not in your own self sufficiency and by so doing it will have power. Pray for yourselves and for all with faith and expectations for in the immutable word, that word which must survive both heaven and earth, it stands recorded, "Verily, verily, I say unto you, whatsoever ye shall ask the Father in my name he will give it you."

Bloomers, Ohio.

Our Young People

"Rejoice Evermore"

Rejoice, true follower of our Lord,
If not in earthly gain.
Requited love, exulting power,
Or fashion's gorgeous train;

Yet in the work of prayer and praise,
In faith that never dies,
In patient undelusive hope
That builds above the skies.

And when the solemn angel comes—
That blessed, loving guide,
Who opes the spirit gate that leads
To the Redeemer's side—

Lay thy cold hand, without a fear,
On the dark wing, and soar
Where saints and seraphs, round the throne,
Rejoice for evermore.

—Lydia H. Sigourney.

A MISSIONARY CHURCH

Acts 13:1-12.

Topic for February 19. (A Missionary meeting)

The Christian spirit is a missionary spirit. The true church is a missionary church. It is impossible to conceive of a person born of the Spirit and filled with the love of God who is not anxious to have all the world know of that same love. It is impossible to conceive of a church loyal to the gospel of Christ and yet not seeking earnestly to help spread that gospel to the whole world. A church or an individual Christian without the missionary spirit will sooner or later grow cold and die.

A few years ago a great denomination divided on the question of missions. Since then the half which favor foreign missions has gone from conquest to conquest until it is the strongest undivided Protestant body in the world, while the other half which opposed missions has been steadily declining.

The Brethren church sees brighter days ahead because its missionary zeal is being heated in the forge of prayer and shaped by the beating of agitation. It is bursting into flames and shall run with increasing swiftness. A full gospel practiced by consecrated men will be blessed by the Holy Spirit. We do not need wealth half so much as we need the missionary spirit. God can supply the way out of prison when we are ready to speak boldly after being released; He can furnish the ship to Rome when once we are ready to go.

Our present need is agitation and education until

prayer and fasting shall follow and then the Holy Spirit will choose men for the work. The day is at hand. Let the young people's societies of the Brethren church make it glorious by their glad and eager help. They can agitate, and they can give, and they can furnish those who will fit themselves to go. This is the meeting to lay these matters heavy upon the heart. May every society throughout the brotherhood be more deeply stirred than ever before.

Characteristics of a missionary church as exemplified in the church at Antioch

1. Fasting and prayer, Acts 13:3; Matt. 17:21; Acts 6:4; Titus 2:11, 12. Love of luxury does not go well with the missionary spirit. It is impossible to do everything. A church cannot be rushing after worldly pleasures and at the same time fulfilling the conditions of spiritual power and blessing.

2. Dependence upon the Holy Spirit, Acts 13:3; Acts 1:8; Zech. 4:6. The cause of missions can be helped more by earnest consecration than by doubtful expedients for raising money. We need not so much more money as the proper use of what we have.

3. Obedience, Acts 13:3; Acts 5:32; I John 3:22. Sometimes we wonder why our prayers are not answered and why the cause we love so much languishes. Perhaps the answer is in ourselves. Perhaps we expect God to open the windows of heaven before we have brought all the tithes into the store house. Mal. 3:10.

4. The unselfish spirit, Acts 13:3; Heb. 10:34. Observing the first three conditions will bring the fourth and it comes in no other way. It is a growth and cannot be manufactured.

Results of the missionary spirit upon the church.

5. Increase of workers, Acts 13:1; Acts 9:31; Acts 12:24.

6. The blessing of the Holy Spirit. Acts 13:2; 11:24; 15:28; Acts 20:28; Matt. 28:20.

QUESTIONS

- 1 What is a missionary church?
- 2 How does a missionary church differ from other churches?
- 3 Show from the scriptures that all churches should be missionary churches.
- 4 What special blessings come to the missionary church?
- 5 How may the missionary spirit of a church be increased?
- 6 What can our society do to increase the missionary spirit of our own church?
- 7 What can our society do to increase the missionary spirit of our own church?
- 7 How is Christ our example in mission work?
- 8 What is the part of the Holy Spirit in missions?
- 9 What does our society think about the proposition for a twentieth century offering of \$100,000, as made thro the EVANGELIST and what will we do toward it?
- 10 What do you know of the Missionary Reading Circle?

C. F. YODER.

FROM THE PRESIDENT

The Joy in Finding the Lost

Assuredly this topic will be of much interest to every member of the Young People's Society; for this topic occupied the hands and filled the heart of Jesus, and it is, moreover, the work into which we have entered for life.

The divine plan of spreading the glad news of salvation is that every soul won shall become a soul winner. "Let him that heareth say come." It is, therefore, the bounden duty of every Christian to say to the one next him, *come*. The first Christians so thought, and accordingly we read that Andrew found Peter and Philip found Nathaniel.